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IN THE APPLICATION

OF

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FOR A

HUNTING WADERS AND JACKET COMBINATION

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**HUNTING WADERS AND JACKET COMBINATION**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/119,111, filed April 10, 2002, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/294,633, filed June 1, 2001.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a waders and jacket combination in which the waders and jacket are attached to each other.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART**

Protective suits and combination garments are well-known, as shown in U.S. Design Patent Nos. 336,355 issued on June 15, 1993 to Jeffrey C. Holton, 353,254, issued on December 13, 1994, 358,928, issued on June 6, 1995 to Timothy Slagle et al., and 369,454 issued on May 7, 1996 to Neil Olsen. U.S. Patents 492,643, issued on February 28, 1893 to O. Van Oostrum, 2,087,246, issued on July 20, 1937 to J.M. Edwards, and 3,130,416, issued on April 28, 1964 to Jack Mitchell et al. further exemplify the state of the art in these protective garments.

Additionally, waders are common in the related art, e.g. as seen in U.S. Design Patent No. 285,140, issued on August 19, 1986 to Jack Ellenberger, and taught in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,858,342, issued on August 22, 1989 to Joh Nicholson et al., 4,912,860, issued on April 3, 1990, to Robert Keller, 5,022,096, issued on June 11, 1991 to David Pacanowsky, and 5,081,718, issued on January 21, 1992 to David Carman et al.

Coats having head coverings are shown in U.S. Design Patent No. 113,194, issued on January 31, 1939 to Emma Story, and taught in U.S. Patent No. 1,077,177, issued on October 28, 1913 to Andrew Vagas et al.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a waders and jacket combination in which the waders and jacket are attached to each other. Because the waders and the jacket are attached to each other, the elements cannot get in between the waders and the jacket, i.e. above the waders and below the jacket. Further, the combination will prevent the separation of the waders and the jacket and the inconvenience which may occur (i.e. by misplacing one) from their separation. The instant invention insures that the waders and the jacket are always together. The attachment will preferably be

made by heat sealing the waders and the jacket together. However, it is noted that any manner which accomplishes the attachment of the waders and the jacket is contemplated by this invention.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a hunting waders and jacket combination having one zipper according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a front view of the jacket showing the detail of the accordioned material.

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of a hunting waders and jacket combination having two zippers.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

The present invention is depicted in the attached figures. Figures 1 and 2 show the front and rear views of an outfit 10 having a jacket 12 attached to a pair of waders 14. The jacket 12 may be made of Gore-Tex® or canvas material, has a turtle neck collar, which may be fastened with Velcro® or zippers that zip to the collar.

The jacket 12 includes a detachable or fold-away hood 16 and a single zipper 18 for allowing entry into the outfit. The zipper 18, shown in Figure 1, is at a location indicating front entry of a wearer into the outfit 10; however, it is noted that locating the zipper to another portion of the jacket is well within the scope of the instant invention. The zipper 18 is waterproof and may be covered with a flap 20 of material to further minimize the effect of water, i.e. to make the outfit even more water resistant. Pockets 22 may be located on the front of the jacket 12 for use as hand warmers.

The waders 14 are waterproof and made of a material such as Cordura®, neoprene, vinyl, or rubber. The waders 14 may include buckle-release suspenders (not shown), knee pads 24 for reinforcement and attached boots 26. The jacket 12 may include a holder for bullets (not shown). The boots 26 are preferably lined with Thinsulate®.

Figure 3 illustrates another way to further minimize the effect of water on the outfit 10. Accordioned material 28 permanently attached to the inside of the zipper 18 will capture any water which gets through the zipper 18 and protect the wearer of the outfit 10. This arrangement can be used with or without the flap 20. The advantage of this material 28, which accords (or folds) along fold lines F, is that it prevents the outfit from fully opening (thereby increasing its water resistance) while allowing the expansion of the outfit for ease of a wearer's entry.

The present invention contemplates the use of additional fold lines to increase the expansion of the outfit. The material 28 is expanded when the jacket is open as in Figure 3. When the jacket is closed, as in Figure 1, the material 28 is folded (or accordioned) about the fold lines F.

Figure 1 illustrates the use of one zipper 18. The advantage of using only one zipper is that there are the fewest possible points of entry for water, an important consideration in the design of a garment for hunters and others who may be exposed to water. Because of ability of the flap 20 and the accordioned material 28 to minimize the wearer's exposure to water, the addition of an extra zipper should not increase the wearer's exposure to water.

An outfit 30 having a jacket 32 with two zippers 34 is also contemplated by the present invention and is shown in Figure 4. Opening the zippers 34 of the jacket 32 will result in a flap that can be folded over, allowing for easy entry of a wearer into the outfit. This two-zipper arrangement can be used with the flap 20 or the accordioned material 28 to reduce exposure to water.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to the sole embodiments described above, but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.